

FRIENDS OF SUBURBAN BRISTOL RAILWAYS (FOSBR)

Treasurer's report for year ending 31 December 2017

INCOME (£)			EXPENDITURE (£)		
	2017	Compared to 2016		2017	Compared to 2016
Subscriptions, private	1,197.00	+1	Printing, copying, laminating	806.88	+115
Affiliation fees	140.00	-40	Postage	362.00	+225
Donations	968.00	+547	Stationery	97.98	-10
Sale: Badges @AGM	3.80	+4	Travel expenses	62.45	-120
			Website	49.97	-10
			Stalls & Room hire	310.50	+166
			Catering/ Entertainment	27.05	-8
			Affiliation & Donations	323.80	+267
			Conference fees	0	-45
			Childcare	307.75	-63
			Bank charges	72.00	+36
			Books/ Research items	18.22	+18
Total Income	2,308.80	+512	Total Expenditure	2,438.60	+571

Summary:

Income over Expenditure for 2017: -£129.80 (compared to -£70.33 in 2016)

Balance in bank at 31 December 2016: +£862.88

Balance in bank at 31 December 2017: +£733.08

Comments:

- Compared to 2016, income rose by £512 - but expenses rose slightly more, by £571.
- In terms of membership subscriptions and donations received during 2017: subscriptions from individuals stayed the same as in 2016, affiliations decreased by £40 (two organisations that previously supported us have stopped doing so) and donations increased by a very welcome £547. One group and two individuals sent money (total £36) in advance for 2017; it had to be included in the income for 2016 and so the income for 2017 was slightly less than it should have been. As before, some groups and individual members included donations as well as their membership subscriptions. We thank all concerned for these welcome boosts to our income.
- Our printing costs increased by £115 compared to the previous year. Our postage costs also increased significantly this year, mainly because a reserve of stamps was used up in 2016 - thus requiring re-stocking in 2017.
- In 2017 we subscribed £15 to the TransWilts Community Rail Partnership. We also donated £50 to 'We Own It' and £119 to the Pilning Station Group (for expenses attached to their campaign). We also gave donations (totalling £140) to two people who have provided real time internet data on train movements - to help with their expenses; the information provided has greatly helped both the Pilning Station Group campaign and our FOSBR investigation of the Severn Beach line problems with the new Class 166 'Turbo' trains.
- Childcare costs, to enable our Secretary to attend various key council and stakeholder meetings, slightly decreased (by £63) this year.

- From July 2016, Unity Trust Bank started charging bank charges of £6 per month - so we incurred 6 months' charges during 2016, a total of £36. In 2017, we paid charges all year - so a total of £72.
- Room hire charges have increased by £166 this year. Part of the reason is that we have been having some meetings in the Engine Shed at Temple Meads where the hire charges are quite high. However it is at a good location and is sufficiently upmarket for meetings with 'movers and shakers'.
- The final end of year balance (2017) is about £130 lower than at the end of 2016. Our account balance now stands at £733.08.

Members:

194 private members and 9 organisations gave money to FOSBR last year (2017). 22 new members joined us in 2017 (an increase from the 15 in 2016) and this helped sustain our income despite several previous members not renewing in 2017.

The organisations that supported us in 2017 were:

- ASLEF (Bristol Branch)
- Bristol Civic Society
- Bristol Cycling Campaign
- Cotham Labour Party
- Friends of Bridgwater Station
- Henbury & Brentry Community Council
- Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council
- Railfuture (Sevenside Branch)
- RMT (Bristol Branch)

Financial situation for 2018:

We have come out at the end of 2017 with a balance of +£733, which is a fairly healthy amount to start the year with. Subscriptions for 2018 will soon start to come in - to further build up our reserves.

The major known costs for the coming year will be the cost of printing and posting 3 newsletters (c.£300 per newsletter).

A note of caution: this is the second year in a row when expenses were greater than income, meaning that our overall yearly balance is slowly diminishing. Also our income was greatly increased by very welcome donations from one organisation (ASLEF) - including a 'special' donation of £250 to thank Julie for her speech at the ASLEF conference. This was a one-off and, without it, our end of year balance would have been a much less respectable £480.

Thus, together with the 2018 subscriptions, there should be sufficient funds to enable us to campaign vigorously for our local rail services during the coming year. However we must be careful about expenses in this coming year and, also, we may have to consider raising subscription rates slightly for 2019.

Tony Lloyd, FOSBR Treasurer

20 January 2018

The above accounts have been audited by Lionel White. He has confirmed that this is a true statement of FOSBR's finances and that the records have been correctly kept.